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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 20 2006

Serial Number 10/646,377  
Docket Number CH920010016US1  
Amendment

### Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

#### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method Method for dynamically allocating a cost to an e-mail ~~that a first user of a transmission network who is of a member of a group, wants to forward to a second user of the transmission network who is also a member of said group,~~ the method comprising the steps of:

forwarding by said a first user, who is a member of an email group, said e-mail to a market engine for in charge of allocating a cost to said e-mail;

determining by said market engine the cost of said e-mail based upon intrinsic and extrinsic criteria;

submitting the cost of said e-mail to said first user for agreement by said first user;

forwarding by said market engine said e-mail to said a second user in response to said agreement by the first user, wherein said second user is a member of the email group; and

updating a credit account associated with said first user.

2. (Currently amended) The method Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of running said market engine as a local market engine when running at the a client device associated with each user.

3. (Currently amended) The method Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of running said market engine as a central market engine including a user credit database which contains the credit accounts of all users and which is accessed by said central market engine when said market engine ~~this one~~ has to determine the cost of said e-mail.

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4. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 3, further comprising the step of maintaining the credit account of each user in a credit database at the a client device associated with said user.

5. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 4 wherein said step of maintaining said credit account included in the credit database of said central market engine and the credit database at the client device associated with each user further includes the step of providing for said user a number of credit points at some specific periods.

6. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 5, wherein said step determining the cost of said e-mail by using intrinsic and extrinsic criteria are further defined by taking into consideration four parameters being respectively, positions of said first and second users in a hierarchy of the group, size of said e-mail, subject of said e-mail and device type for e-mail delivery, said extrinsic criteria being used for adjusting said intrinsic criteria for each parameter.

7. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 6, further comprising the step of defining said extrinsic criteria for said respective positions of said first and second users in the hierarchy by a matrix wherein a value of each element  $\alpha(i,j)$  associated with a sender  $i$  and a receiver  $j$  determined by the decision of a high ~~lever~~ level manager of said group.

8. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 6, further comprising the step of defining said extrinsic criteria for the size of said e-mail by a matrix wherein a value of each element  $\beta(i,j)$  associated with a sender  $i$  and a receiver  $j$  is determined by said receiver  $j$ .

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9. (Currently amended) The method Method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of defining said intrinsic criteria for the subject of said e-mail by a matrix<sup>T</sup> wherein a value of each element  $T(i,j)$  associated with a sender  $i$  and a receiver  $j$  is determined by ~~the~~ a set of guidelines of said group.
10. (Currently amended) The method Method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of defining said extrinsic criteria for the subject of said e-mail by a matrix wherein a value of each element  $\gamma(i,j)$  associated with sender  $i$  and receiver  $j$  for adjusting the value of the corresponding element  $T(i,j)$  of said matrix<sup>T</sup> is determined by said receiver  $j$ .
11. (Currently amended) The method Method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of defining said intrinsic criteria for the device type by a matrix<sup>D</sup> wherein a value of each element  $D(i,j)$  associated with a sender  $i$  and a receiver  $j$  is determined by ~~the~~ a set of guidelines of said group.
12. (Currently amended) The method Method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of dynamically determining each of said extrinsic criteria by the administrator of the system based upon system information ~~such as messages on network overloads~~.
13. (Currently amended) The method Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of re-prioritizing and repositioning said e-mail by said second user when it is received from said market engine.
14. (Currently amended) The method Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing said group as a large company and said users as employees of said company.
15. (Currently amended) The method Method according to claim 1, further comprising the

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step of providing said market engine as a central market engine when running as a server.

16. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 6, further comprising the step of dynamically determining each of said extrinsic criteria by the administrator of the system based upon system information ~~such as messages on buffer overflows.~~

17. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 6, further comprising the step of dynamically determining each of said extrinsic criteria by the administrator of the system based upon system information such as messages on special actions ~~such as a group discussion forum.~~

18. (Currently amended) A service for dynamically allocating a cost to an e-mail ~~that a first user of a transmission network who is of a member of a group, wants to forward to a second user of the transmission network who is also a member of said group,~~ said service comprising the method steps of:

forwarding by said first user, who is of a member of an email group, said e-mail to a market engine ~~for in charge of~~ allocating a cost to said e-mail;

determining by said market engine the cost of said e-mail based upon intrinsic and extrinsic criteria;

submitting the cost of said e-mail to said first user for agreement by said first user;

forwarding by said market engine said e-mail to said second user in response to said agreement by said first user, wherein the second user is a member of the email group; and

updating a credit account associated with said first user.

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19. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture for dynamically allocating a cost to an e-mail transmission within a transmission network, wherein a first user, who is a member of a group, forwards the email to a second user who is a member of said group; the article that a first user of a transmission network who is of a member of a group, wants to forward to a second user of the transmission network who is also a member of said group, comprising a machine readable medium tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine for implementing a method, the method comprising steps of:

forwarding by said first user said e-mail to a market engine in charge of allocating a cost to said e-mail;

determining by said market engine the cost of said e-mail based upon intrinsic and extrinsic criteria;

submitting the cost of said e-mail to said first user for agreement;

forwarding by said market engine said e-mail to said second user; and

updating a credit account associated with said first user.